of an unrestricted and unascertainable dissemination of fire-arms throughout the country; and the object of the revised Rules is not so much to impose additional restrictions as to enable the Government to obtain a tolerably correct idea of the number and description of the fire-arms in the country.

In regard to cultivators in the hilly tracts and cultivators generally, the revised Rules, far from imposing additional restrictions, have done away with existing restrictions and have provided for the issue of licenses in such cases free of all fee. (*Vide* Rule 28 of the revised Rules and Form No. 13 appended to them.)

(2) Rule 26 of the revised Rules provides for the grant, at a time, of licenses extending to three years, and it is open to the holders of these licenses to apply for their renewal sufficiently in advance with a view to obtain fresh licenses before the expiry of the old ones.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: Are Government aware of the fact that cultivators in the hilly tracts are suffering much as they have not got their licenses although it is now the month of Vrischikam and that heavy damages are being done to crops by wild beasts in consequence?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Government have no information.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: Have Government received any representation or petition from the people of Todupuzha and Kunnatnad and other hilly tracts in the matter?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI. I claim notice.

Revised Arms Rules and Cultivation near Reserved Forests.

131. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the damage done to cultivation, as a result of the ravages of wild animals, suffered by people living close to forests?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any special reasons for taking away from the people of these localities the privilege of keeping and using fire-arms, by the introduction of the Rules dated the 31st Mithunam, 1097?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the troubles caused by the Police to the cultivators living close to the forests in respect of possessing fire-arms, on account of the necessity to apply for licenses to possess them?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to appoint a special officer to go on circuit to the *pakuthies* close to the forests and give licenses, in case Government do not propose to revise the Rules?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) & (*b*) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 130.

(*c*) & (*d*) The answer is in the negative.

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